

Message Text

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ORIGIN L-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 JUSE-00 SCA-01 /011 R

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----- 068046

O 252050Z AUG 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NASSAU IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, CPAS, BF
SUBJECT: EXTRADITION QUERY FROM STATE OF FLORIDA

1. DEPARTMENT LEGAL OFFICER RECEIVED CALL TODAY FROM ASSISTANT TO FLORIDA GOVERNOR REGARDING FLORIDA ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN RETURN OF A NUMBER OF PEOPLE, INDICTED IN FLORIDA FOR CONSPIRACY TO IMPORT MARIJUANA, WHO HAD BEEN LOCATED IN THE BAHAMAS.

2. ASSISTANT SAID GOVERNOR WOULD BE HOLDING PRESS CONFERENCE TOMORROW WHICH COULD INVOLVE THIS ISSUE AND ASSISTANT WANTED TO "GET TO THE BOTTOM OF ALL THE FACTS" REGARDING ISSUE.

3. LEGAL OFFICER ASKED ASSISTANT WHAT STEPS FLORIDA HAD TAKEN TOWARD EXTRADITION AND WAS TOLD FLORIDA POLICE OFFICERS PERSONALLY FLEW TO NASSAU WITH COPIES OF INDICTMENT AND ARREST WARRANTS AND TOOK THEM TO NASSAU POLICE REQUESTING EXTRADITION. FLORIDA OFFICIALS WERE THEN UPSET TO LEARN REQUEST HAD NOT BEEN HONORED. ASSISTANT WAS INFORMED AT THIS POINT THAT FLORIDA HAD NOT COMPLIED WITH TREATY PROCEDURES FOR EXTRADITION AND BAHAMAS GOVERNMENT WAS CORRECT NOT TO HONOR EXTRADITION REQUEST PRESENTED BY POLICE. ASSISTANT WAS TOLD PROPER PROCEDURE

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WAS FOR GOVERNOR'S OFFICE TO MAKE REQUEST THROUGH STATE DEPARTMENT AND THAT THIS HAD NOT BEEN DONE. ASSISTANT THEN REQUESTED ADVICE AS TO WHETHER CONSPIRACY TO IMPORT

MARIJUANA WAS EXTRADITABLE OFFENSE. DEPARTMENT TOLD ASSISTANT THAT CONSPIRACY IS A DIFFICULTY UNDER US/UK TREATY AND THAT DEPARTMENT DID NOT KNOW WHETHER MARIJUANA WAS CONSIDERED A DANGEROUS DRUG IN BAHAMAS SO AS TO FALL WITHIN TREATY PROVISION.

4. IN LATER CONVERSATION, ASSISTANT TOLD LEGAL OFFICER THAT GOVERNOR WAS MOVING TOWARD AN APOLOGY TO THE BAHAMAS GOVERNMENT FOR FLORIDA ACTION AND THAT GOVERNOR WOULD PROBABLY ALSO POINT OUT THAT A GRAND JURY REPORT WHICH CRITICIZED THE BAHAMAS WAS BASED ON FACTORAL INACCURACIES, I.E., GRAND JURY THOUGHT PROPER EXTRADITION REQUEST HAD BEEN MADE. INGERSOLL

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